



City of Northfield

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
northfieldmn.gov

Meeting Minutes - Final Environmental Quality Commission

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

6:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

- Present:** 7 - Vice Chair Michael Provancha, Commissioner Bruce Anderson, Chair Daniel Jones, Commissioner Janet Petri, Commissioner George Kinney, Commissioner Susannah Shmurak and Commissioner Jael Conde
- Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Michelle Mattson

Also present: Risi Karim, Assistant to the City Administrator; Matt Bailey, Meeting Associate

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Shmurak, seconded by Vice Chair Provancha, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Yes:** 7 - Vice Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Chair Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Shmurak and Commissioner Conde

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [24-452](#) June 19, 2024 EQC Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [1 - June 17, 2024 EQC Meeting Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Kinney, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the June 19, 2024 EQC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Yes:** 7 - Vice Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Chair Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Shmurak and Commissioner Conde

PRESENTATIONS

2. [24-453](#) 2023 Community Data Dashboard

Attachments: [1 - Northfield_2023_Q4](#)
[2 - Northfield 2017-2023 Energy Data, Xcel Energy](#)

Michelle Frost, Community Energy Analyst at Center for Energy and Environment, and Sofia Troutman, Product Portfolio Manager at Xcel Energy and manager of the Partners in Energy Program, delivered a presentation on the 2023 Northfield Partners in Energy Community Data Dashboard. Frost and Troutman responded to questions and comments from the members of the EQC.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

REGULAR AGENDA

3. [24-454](#) 2024 Work Plan Update

Attachments: [1 - 2024 Work Plan July](#)

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim and the members of the EQC reported on updates to their progress on the 2024 EQC Work Plan:

- Zero Waste Plan Implementation: The final short and long versions of the Zero Waste Event Guide were presented to the EQC in May. There will be no GreenCorps member working on this initiative, but there should be a Carleton College student assigned to it in the fall. Chair Jones provided additional updates on the ongoing work of the City to address the plan.*
- Inflation Reduction Act Workshop Series: Commissioners Petri and Shmurak continue their tabling at the Riverwalk Market Fair. Additional Commissioners will also participate on future weekends. The Commissioners discussed ideas for additional events and marketing and the availability of rebates for home energy upgrades.*
- Active Living: Walk and Bike Campaign: This initiative has been completed. Youth Representative Conde received positive feedback from his peers on the program. Commissioner Anderson reported that the Healthy Communities Initiative may be interested in partnering on future iterations of this initiative.*
- Food Education Campaign: The final version of the food education and sustainable community gardening resource guide was presented to the EQC in May.*
- Native Planting Promoting: Tree Planting & Vegetation: Chair Jones requested an update from the City on the state grant received for tree planting. Karim reported that the priority for the grant is to replace trees affected by the emerald ash borer. Jones would like to draft updates the 2015 tree planting plan and present it to the City Council.*

STAFF UPDATES

4. [24-455](#) Staff Update.

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim presented updates from City staff, including positive news on a possible electric vehicle car-sharing program for Northfield and nearby communities. Karim responded to questions and comments from the EQC on these updates.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Shmurak requested clarification on what venues and processes are available to request changes to what plantings are allowed on public residential parkways. Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim and the other Commissioners provided context on what options are available.

-Vice Chair Provancha reported on noise and air pollution due to lawn care and asked if area HOAs have been approached about reducing these. The other Commissioners discussed options on city-wide reduction of noise and emissions.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Shmurak, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Vice Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Chair Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Shmurak and Commissioner Conde